

FAULT  
24 "11/2"

TORRINGTON  
RURAL DISTRICT  
1949.

---

---

REPORTS  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SANITARY SURVEYOR**

---

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31ST DECEMBER, 1949.

---

---

GREAT TORRINGTON :  
Printed by COPP & SON, "Osborne Printing Works,"  
4, Well Street.

# STAFF.

---

## PART TIME OFFICER:

Medical Officer of Health—

DR. E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

## WHOLE TIME OFFICERS:

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor—

F. G. GANE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk—Miss V. MOORE.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
HODGE'S CHAMBERS,  
TORRINGTON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Torrington  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

We have pleasure in presenting our ANNUAL  
REPORTS for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

**F. G. GANE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,**

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.

# Torrington Rural District.

❖ 1949 ❖

## General Statistics.

---



---

Area (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,825
Population (R.G.)	...	...	...	..	...	...	7,600
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,510
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£20,729
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£86 7s. 5d.

---



---

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births .. ... Male 59, Female 56, Total 115.

Increase of 40 on previous year.

Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated Population ... 15·1.

Deaths ... 94.

Death Rate per 1000 of estimated Resident Population ... 12·4.

---

# Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

## General Sanitary Conditions of the District.

### Housing.

A difficult problem—but are too many large Council Houses built? 3 roomed bungalows would suffice for elderly people.

### Midwifery and Nursing.

This is looked after by the National Health Service.

## Hospitals.

The District is chiefly served by the National Hospitals of Torrington, Bideford, Barnstaple and Exeter. It appears these have long waiting lists and nurses are hard to recruit. These troubles are largely due to the present "Utopia," but the planners entirely forgot that many of the young having babies, and the elderly getting infirm, would be driven to hospitals as they could not now find persons to look after them at home—the alternative appears an occasional vacancy in what are locally known as Mr. Bevan's Hotels.

## Clinics and Medical Practitioners.

These are provided by the Health Service.

## Isolation Hospitals and Infectious Disease.

Bideford and District Isolation Hospital serves the area.

During the year 14 cases of Whooping Cough.

240 cases of Measles.

4 cases of Scarlet Fever.

1 case of Poliomyelitis.

4 cases of Pneumonia.

and 6 cases of Tuberculosis were notified

There is an excellent Tuberculosis Clinic at Barnstaple.

## Ambulance Service.

This is adequate.

## Laboratory Services.

These are available at Exeter.

## Schools.

These are being brought up to date, but water is not always good.

## Dairies and Cowsheds.

These are improving.

## Venereal Disease.

There is a Clinic at Barnstaple, but not many clients from this rural area.

## **Infestation.**

Very little.

## **Water and Drainage.**

This is often poor in quality and quantity, but the North Devon Water Scheme is on the way.

Drainage in most cases is also bad.

## **Immunisation.**

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out by the County Authorities.

## **Mental Health and Juvenile Delinquency.**

This is administered through the County Authorities. The school children appear well nourished and happy. However, underneath the surface, all is not so good. If the old fashioned corrective methods are out of date—an excellent deterrent for children and parents would be some kind of public “Black List,” and would probably considerably reduce more serious crimes of theft, etc., later on. One should remember that puppies and kittens suitably corrected when young are usually cured, and our kids are only another “genus,” otherwise, it is usually the owner’s fault.

## **Food Poisoning.**

No obvious cases have been reported.





# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

---

## DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	12
Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	..	27	
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	21
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	35
Keeping of Animals	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	1
Enquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	2
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	2
Visits to Factories	...	...	11
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	3
„ „ Schools	...	...	5
Food Inspections	...	...	11
Number of Milk samples	...	...	—
Number of Water samples	...	...	9
Building inspections under Bye-laws	...	...	119
Visits to Council Housing Sites	...	...	222
Defective drains	...	...	17
Drains tested	...	...	41
Rats and mice	...	...	4
Plans investigated	...	..	114
Petroleum inspections	...	...	17
Dirty houses	...	...	1
Farm Water supplies	...	...	19
Miscellaneous	...	...	71

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

## PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register 3	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	56	14	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies (a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order 1938† ...	2	—	—	—	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act‡ (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ...		56	14	—	—	



## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ... ..	5					5
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	6					6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	7					7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ... ..	8					8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	9					9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ... ..	10					10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ... ..	11					11
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	12					12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ... ..	13					13
TOTAL ... ..	60	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	60

OUTWORK—(Sections 110 and 111). Nil.

## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	39
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				95
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	12
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				33
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...		2
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	10

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	25
---	-----	-----	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

#### A. Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
	(a) by owners	...	Nil
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—				
	(a) by owners	...	...	...	1
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

### C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

### D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

### Improvements carried out and nuisances abated:—

<i>External.</i>					<i>No. of houses.</i>
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	5
Water supply laid on into houses	...	...	...	...	17
New pumps provided	...	...	...	...	9
Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
Well steinings repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New lengths drain laid	...	...	...	...	19
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	9
New inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	8
Septic tanks repaired	...	...	...	...	2
New Septic tanks	...	...	...	...	12
New gullies ..	...	...	...	...	12
New W.C's. ...	...	...	...	...	12
Water supply laid on to W.C's.	...	...	...	...	9
W.C. cisterns renewed...	...	...	...	...	4
New washing accommodation	...	...	...	...	3
Outbuildings repaired	...	...	...	...	1
<i>Internal.</i>					
Walls replastered	...	...	...	...	13
Ceilings replastered	...	...	...	...	13
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	9

Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
New sinks	...	...	...	...	9
New sculleries	...	...	...	...	2
Baths installed	...	...	...	...	10
Food storage improved	...	...	...	...	4
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water systems fixed	...	...	...	...	9

### **New Housing Accommodation.**

Number of new houses erected by local authority	...	18
„ „ new houses erected by private enterprise...	—	
„ „ premises converted into dwellings	...	—
„ „ houses converted into two dwellings	...	—
„ „ family units made by conversion of camp buildings into flats	... ..	—

### **COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.**

18 houses were completed during the year, and at the close of the year another 6 were nearing completion. Contracts were in hand for a further 4. 32 houses have been completed in the post-war period.

### **CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES.**

The issue of licences is carried out by a small Committee of the Council.

#### **Licences issued in respect of repairs, maintenance or miscellaneous building work to housing.**

No. of licences issued.	Value in £
12	2,883

#### **Licences issued for conversions and adaptations by private enterprise to provide additional housing accommodation.**

Total Value in £	Total No. of family units of accommodation provided.
450	2

### **MILK SUPPLIES.**

There are 602 registered Cow-keepers in the district, including 89 Retail producers. Visits were made to give advice on structural alterations and clean milk production. On the 1st October the Ministry of Agriculture assumed responsibility for the inspection and supervision of milk production.



There are 26 Accredited Producers and 14 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the district.

## **WATER SUPPLIES.**

Except for the village of Winkleigh, the water supplies of the district continue to give cause for concern which can only be alleviated by the installation of a piped supply. Many of the public wells are situated in positions which are liable to contamination from leaking sewers and drains. It has been found necessary to issue warnings to the public to boil water from some of the wells, but these recommendations are frequently disregarded on account of the hardship caused. The water is plumbo-solvent in some parts of the district and samples are tested for Ph value on request and advice given on pipe materials.

## **SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

The sewerage systems and disposal methods of many of the villages are obsolete and urgently need modernisation. In some of the villages they are a potential danger to health. The Council have undertaken a programme of reconstruction, but the problem is such a heavy one from a financial point of view that it will be many years before it can be completed. A scheme has been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the village of Winkleigh and another is in course of preparation for the village of Shebbear.

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

Animals intended for human consumption in the district are slaughtered at the Public Abattoir at Bideford, where the carcasses and offals are inspected before allocation.

The following foods were condemned during the year :—

264 1-lb. packets Cooking Fat.  
 2 tins of condensed milk.  
 4 stones coal fish and cod.  
 2 11½-oz. tins Veal Loaf.  
 1 4-lb. tin Brawn.  
 1 4-lb. tin Luncheon Meat.  
 196 lbs. Beef.

## **PETROLEUM & CALCIUM CARBIDE LICENCES.**

1 calcium carbide licence was issued during the year and 21 petroleum licences.

## **SLAUGHTERING LICENCES.**

62 licences were issued during the period.

## **PLANS.**

114 plans were submitted during the year, and apart from modifications, all were approved, except 4.







